

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1072

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 342

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: OCCASIONAL HOPEFUL BUBBLES IN ULSTER POLITICAL POST

REF: BELFAST 329

1. OFFICIAL UNIONIST JOHN TAYLOR OCT. 21 MADE KNOWN HIS DISAPPROVAL OF ATTEMPTS BY DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS (PAISLEY) TO EXPEL WILLIAM CRAIG AND HIS THREE CONVENTION SUPPORTERS IN VANGUARD PARTY FROM UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC). COALITION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS OCT. 24 AND DECISION ON EXTENDING SUSPENSION TO EXPULSION WILL BE TAKEN THEN. TAYLOR REASONING GIVEN IN PUBLIC SPEECH IS THAT EXPULSION UNWARRANTED SINCE NO THREE-LINE WHIPE DISOBEYED AND EXPULSION WOULD BE THREAT TO FUTURE FREE SPEECH IN COALITION. CONSEQUENT DISENCHANTMENT OF VOTERS WOULD FOLLOW. TAYLOR IS CANNY POLITICIAN AND IT UNLIKELY HE WOULD GO PUBLICLY VERY FAR OUT ON LIMB UNLESS HE BELIEVED THERE CONSIDERABLE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR HIS VIEWS. EXPULSION CRAIG WOULD DIMINISH HIS PLATFORM IN ANY CONVENTION "PHASE TWO".

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) BELFAST CITY COUNCILMAN TOM DONNELLY CALLED ON CATHOLICS OCT. 22 TO SUPPORT
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AND JOHN ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARLY (RUC). DONNELLY EXPRESSED

BELIEF THAT RUC GENERALLY OPERATING IN UNBIASED AND SYMPATHETIC WAY AND THAT IT FACT SIXTY PER CENT ITSPERSONNEL NEW IN LAST FIVE YEARS. HE SAID THAT SINCE CRAIG STATEMENT ABOUT SDLP DESERVING BETTER FROM UUUC MEANT REALLY MINORITY DESERVED BETTER FROM MAJORITY THEN IT ALSO TRUE THAT MAJORITY DESERVES BETTER FROM MINORITY IN FIGHT AGAINST MEN AND WOMEN OF VIOLENCE. SDLP HEADQUARTERS QUICK TO ANNOUNCE THAT DONNELLY VIEWS WERE NOT RPT NOT THOSE OF PARTY. IT RECALLED THAT DONNELLY, WHO ALSO MEMBER SDLP EXECUTIVE, WAS ASSOCIATED WITH ATTEMPT LAST YEAR BY NORTH BELFAST CHAPTER TO DE-EMPHASIZE IRISH DIMENSION AS PARTY POLICY.

3. THOMAS PSSMORE BELFAST ORANGE LODGE MASTER OCT. 21 PRAISED IRISH REPUBLIC STRONG LINE IN HERREMA KIDNAPPING. HE APPROVED REFUSAL OF PRESENT IRISH GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH PROVISIONAL IRA. "PERHAPS THE HISTORY OF THE PAST SIX YEARS WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF LIAM COSGRAVE INSTEAD OF JACK LYNCH HAD BEEN PRIME MINISTER IN EURE IN AUGUST 1969" HE SAID.

4. ON LESS HOPEFUL NOTE BOMB ATTEMPT ON LONDONDERRY DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST OCT. 16 AND SHOOTING OF DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST GARAGE OWNER OCT. 21 LINKED BY REVEREND IAN PASLEY TO POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIS SUPPORTERS. TECHNIQUES BOTH ATTEMPTS MORE TYPICAL OF PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY OR FRINGE REPUBLICAN GROUPS THAN OF PROVISIONAL IRA.SPICER

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